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Sioux Chief Little Crow, North Dakota

CARD OF THANKS

My gratitude to the following who were kind to help me out on the last issue when I was rushed for time; Jimmy Evanson, Betty Chandler, Donavon Nickel, Victor Hehn and Lyle Rostad, Mrs. Arnold Offerdahl, Bernice Flammang and Anna Fog. Sincere Thanks.

CITIZENS FIRST, VETERANS SECOND

James D. Evanson

Certainly it well behooves the ex-G. I. to adopt a very serious-minded approach toward his democratic responsibilities as an American Citizen, to consider advisedly the aims, the motivating principles underlying his veterans' organization that the veteran's voice will be heard. What are they? What do they stand for? What, specifically, is the AVC?

At Des Moines, Iowa, June 14-15, the American Veterans Committee held its constitutional convention; out of that convention emerged a full-fledged veterans' organization unique among its own kind. Composed of World War II veterans and built on the slogan "Citizens First, Veterans Second", it is quickly setting a new pace, setting new goals for activity and accomplishment on the part of veterans' groups.

The American Veterans Committee, in accordance with its original Statement of Intentions (which have been published previously in Viltis — March 1946 issue), has taken very positive stands on such vital public issues as the reorganization of the Veterans Administration, the revision of the G. I. Bill of Rights, the passage of the FEPC and anti-Poll Tax bills, the extension of OPA, the extension of the draft, the passage of the British Loan, the enlisted men's terminal pay bill, and the Wagner-Murray-Dingell health bill, and has registered vigorous opposition to the recent Labor Draft proposals. The AVC has worked hard and long for full American participation in the United Nations, in world reconstruction; the AVC was represented at the San Francisco Conference.

At the constitutional convention of AVC (which, incidentally, has been active since 1944), these and many other pertinent issues were discussed. Included in the resulting platform of action were, among other things, support of the UN, UN control of atomic energy, creation of a World Armed Force, immediate restoration of rationing, a break in relations with Franco Spain, continued opposition to the Argentine government and expulsion of Argentina from the UN, entry of 100,000 Jews into Palestine, a minimum wage law, opposition to any form of racial discrimination, support of OPA.

For very basic and sound economic reasons the AVC has consistently opposed any form of Bonus. As "Citizens First" they are, rather, more concerned with adequate jobs, with adequate low-cost housing, with establishing sound economic security for all citizens, than with temporary alleviation of strain on the veterans pocket-book through a substantial drain on the national treasury at the taxpayers' expense.

This, then, in substance, is the AVC, for an organization is identified with the things it fights for, the stand it takes on major issues of national import; the AVC has clearly stated its position. The problems that

G. I.'s discussed in fox-holes and in camp bull-sessions, the problems they have faced since their return to civilian life — these were the problems that appeared on the convention floor in Des Moines, and the delegates, from forty-four states, through their adopted platform took positive steps in committing the AVC to a vigorous plan of action in solving these problems of the veterans as citizens.

Charles Bolte, the national chairman, has summarized in saying: "This (the AVC) is the symbol of our hopes... a dream; that out of the horror and the boredom of the greatest war there should come a new comradeship, transcending all the barriers that separate us from one another, working for the speedy transformation of all veterans into productive members of society, and striving to achieve a more democratic and prosperous America and a more stable world."

This is the American Veterans Committee.

POST SCRIPT

Noteworthy of the AVC Convention was the fact that it was one of the most sober meets ever held. The Des Moines papers spoke highly of it. Drunkenness and misbehavior seems to be, usually, a part of all Veteran conventions, and lo! Here gathered hundreds of youth and none were drunk, nor were water bags thrown on pedestrians from hotel windows, or scaring the life out of unsuspecting folk passing by.

Their next demonstration that proved them worthy of high praise, occurred when one of their fellow veterans of the colored race was refused to be served in one of those fascist restaurants. All fellow vets left that place, took out a warrant against the owner and had him jailed. That's where all such discriminators belong. And hats off to the AVC and let us hope that it will grow in leaps and bounds and that it will eventually place into oblivion the chauvenistic branches of veteran organizations.

AMONG OUR FRIENDS . . .

WEDDING BELLS

STENSON - ROMSAAS

Ella H. Stenson, Farmers Union Field Secretary of McLean County, will be united in marriage to Dale M. Romsaas, of Ryder, N. D., on September 1st. The wedding will take place at St. Olof's Lutheran church at Turtle Lake, N. D., home town of Miss Stenson.

Dale Romsaas is the leader of the Farmers Union Juniors in McLean Co. He has been with the Navy for 38 months as a Petty Officer 1st Class and was overseas for 30 months; 6 months in the Atlantic and 24 in the Pacific. After her marriage, Mrs. Romsaas will become a teacher in a rural school near Ryder. Heartiest congratulations to Ella and Dale.

SENT TO NEW YORK

Hugh Elmer Jones, Jr., friend and backer of Viltis, was sent by the Veterans Administration to New York for a four month course in administrative work. Hugh has been with the Veterans Administration Insurance Department. Good luck, Hugh, Ole top, and have a good time in the great, big city.

OPEN AIR FOLK FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1946, 8:00 P.M.

International House (Chicago University)

1414 East 59th St. (Midway)

Exhibition dances by nationality groups. General participation by the audience to the music of a good folk orchestra. Everybody invited.

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